

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 311207
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC/NSTAC

S E C R E T STATE 311207

EXDIS , JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, CH

SUBJECT: ROC PENETRATION OF PRC AIRSPACE
MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
REFERENCE: (A) TAIPEI 7871
(B) TAIPEI 8071

1. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER DEVELOPMENTS CITED IN REFTELS
IN WHICH REPORTED PENETRATION OF PRC AIRSPACE ON NOV-
EMBER 28 BY ROC AIRCRAFT RESULTED IN INCREASE IN BOTH
PRC AND ROC AIR ACTIVITY IN THE PROXIMITY OF PRC COAST.
WE ARE ADDITIONALLY CONCERNED BY THE DISCOVERY THAT ROC
PATROLS FLY WITHIN FIVE NAUTICAL MILES OF MAINLAND COAST
ON AN AVERAGE OF TWO TO THREE TIMES A MONTH. WHILE TO
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DATE NO INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED, UNSETTLED CONDITIONS ON
THE MAINLAND, MOST EVIDENT IN THE FUKIEN AREA WHERE ROC
COASTAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED, HAVE SIGNIFICANT-
LY ENHANCED THE POTENTIAL FOR AN INCIDENT. WE WOULD BE
EQUALLY CONCERNED BY ANY INCIDENT ARISING FROM AN ROC
ATTEMPT TO KEEP PRC AIRCRAFT FROM VENTURING A REASONABLE

DISTANCE OUT OVER THE STRAITS.

2. WE HAVE DECIDED ON AN APPROACH TO THE ROC ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH EMPHASIZES THE CONCERN OF USING AIRCRAFT

PROVIDED THROUGH US MILITARY ASSISTANCE ON THESE FLIGHTS. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO MOVE ROC AIR PATROL ACTIVITY FURTHER AWAY FROM THE MAINLAND AND WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS ADVERSELY AFFECTING TAIWAN'S SECURITY.

3. ACCORDINGLY, AMBASSADOR SHOULD CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE TO MAKE PRESENTATION WHICH DRAWS ON PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2. IN COURSE OF PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR SHOULD STRESS THAT US PUBLIC, CONGRESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL CONCERN RESULTING FROM AN INCIDENT CAUSED BY ROC PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR COULD BE OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE AS TO CREATE COMPLICATIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE AREA OF MILITARY SUPPLY. AMBASSADOR SHOULD RELAY OUR STRONG DESIRE THAT ROC AIR PATROLS STAY SUFFICIENTLY BEYOND THE PRC-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL LIMITS TO MINIMIZE CHANCES OF AN INCIDENT. FYI: WHILE US DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE PRC CLAIM, IT APPEARS IN THIS CASE TO BE THE MOST PRUDENT COURSE TO MINIMIZE RISK. WE HAVE INTENTIONALLY AVOIDED DELIMITING A SPECIFIC DISTANCE BECAUSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT MARGIN OF SAFETY WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO GUARANTEE THAT NO INCIDENTS WILL BE PROVOKED BY ROC FLIGHTS. END FYI.

4. IF FONMIN RAISES QUESTION ABOUT ROC AIR ACCESS TO SECRET

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KINMEN, AMBASSADOR SHOULD REPLY THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS SPECIAL CASE PROVIDED ROC FOLLOWS CUSTOMARY, WELL-DEFINED ROUTE.

5. DOD IS INITIATING ACTION THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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